

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00001 01 OF 02 041220Z

14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 NEA-10 IO-14 AGR-20 EB-11

COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 INT-08

PC-10 IGA-02 /225 W

----- 016834

R 020755Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1778

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NOUAKCHOTT 0001

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON EAID MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIA, LOOKING AHEAD TO 1974

REFS: NOUAKCHOTT A-86 (12/31/72), 1163, 1164, 1227, AND
NOUAKCHOTT A-62 (DEC 73).

SUMMARY.

1974 IN MAURITANIA PROMISES TO BE A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION
FOLLOWING ON 1973'S MANIFOLD POLICY INNOVATIONS. LAST YEAR
THE OULD DADDAH GOVERNMENT MOVED TO CONTROL THE LABOR MOVEMENT
THROUGHT INTEGRATION INTO THE PEOPLE'S PARTY (PPM), STEPPED
UP ARABIZATION OF SCHOOL CURRICULA, SEVERED TIES WITH THE FRANC
ZONE AND CREATED A NATIONAL CURRENCY. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
GIRM BROKE MOST OF ITS FORMAL POST-INDEPENDENCE TIES WITH FRANCE
AND PLANTED ITSELF SQUARELY IN THE ARAB CAMP BY JOINING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00001 01 OF 02 041220Z

THE ARAB LEAGUE. NOW OULD DADDAH AND HIS COLLABORATORS

WILL TRY TO CONSOLIDATE THESE "GAINS." TO REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY THEY INTEND TO BUILD CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW NATIONAL CURRENCY, PUSH MAURITANIZATION OF COMMERCE, AND MOVE TOWARD AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION. THESE EFFORTS PLUS TRYING TO STRENGTHEN UNION AND PARTY STRUCTURES AND REFORM THE YOUTH WING OF THE PPM WILL GO ON AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF CONTINUED DROUGHT AND A NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY FEEDING PROGRAM. THE LONG STANDING RESTRAINTS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SHORTAGE OF CADRE AND SOUNDLY CONCEIVED PROJECTS, WILL CONTINUE TO LIMIT THE PACE OF PROGRESS.

IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 1974 MAY BE LESS ACTIVE THAN 1973. GIRM WILL LIKELY MOVE TO IMPROVE ITS NOW LOOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FORMER METROPOLE; IN AFRO-ARAB AFFAIRS, ITS CLAIM TO THE ROLE OF INTERLOCUTOR BETWEEN BLACK AND ARAB AFRICA WILL BECOME LESS SIGNIFICANT AS IT IS PREEMPTED BY MORE POWERFUL VOICES ON THE CONTINENT. THE USG WILL BE INCREASINGLY INVOLVED DURING 1974 IN DROUGHT REHABILITATION PROJECTS. GIRM IS ALSO COUNTING ON WASHINGTON TO PLAY ROLE OF CATALYST HELPING SECURE INTERNATIONAL FUNDING OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE SENEGAL RIVER BASIN. END SUMMARY.

1. DROUGHT, BUT NOT FAMINE.

A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR GIRM CONTINUES TO BE THE DROUGHT, NOW ENTERING ITS SIXTH YEAR IN THIS PART OF THE SAHELIAN ZONE. CEREAL PRODUCTION REMAINS POOR, AND HERDS MUST STILL BE REBUILT. THANKS TO MASSIVE FOREIGN DONATIONS OF GRAIN AND PERHAPS THE MOST EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN THE SAHELIAN ZONE, MAURITANIA AVOIDED FAMINE IN 1973. THE NEXT PHASE, DROUGHT REHABILITATION, WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO EXECUTE. MONEY IS CHASING PROJECTS AS THE OVERWORKED, UNDERSTAFFED AND UNDERTRAINED GIRM BUREAUCRACY SEEKS WAYS TO SPEND ON REHABILITATION PROJECTS CASH NOW BEGINNING TO POUR IN FROM OVERSEAS. THE NEW ELEMENT THIS YEAR MAY TURN OUT TO BE A REAL INTEREST IN FOOD- FOR-WORK PROJECTS. AS THE OLD YEAR ENDED, PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH MET WITH MINISTERS, GOVERNORS AND OTHER SENIOR ADVISORS TO MAP NEXT YEAR'S DROUGHT CAMPAIGN. THEY ELECTED TO RETAIN MINISTER OF HEALTH OULD BAH AS OVERALL RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COORDINATOR, BUT DID NOT SO FAR AS WE KNOW, ASSIGN HIM ADDITIONAL STAFF TO COPE WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00001 01 OF 02 041220Z

PROGRAM PLANNING OR COORDINATION AMONG DONORS (NOUAKCHOTT 1227).

2. THE PARTY, YOUTH AND LABOR.

EQUALLY HIGH ON GIRM'S LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR 1974 IS THE REVITALIZATION OF THE PPM, SOLE NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY, AND PARTICULARLY ITS YOUTH AND LABOR WINGS. THOUGH THE TRADITIONAL MAURITANIAN SOURCES OF OVERT POLITICAL FRICTION--STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND MINeworkERS--HAVE REMAINED

QUIESCENT THIS YEAR, GOVERNMENT KNOWS ITS LUCK WILL NOT HOLD INDEFINITELY. HAVING MOVED IN 1973 TO BRING THE MAURITANIAN WORKERS' UNION UNDER THE PPM, OULD DADDAH MUST NOW PROVIDE THE BREAD AND BUTTER BENEFITS PROMISED DURING THE AMALGAMATION CAMPAIGN: CONSUMER COOPERATIVES, EXPANDED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, INCREASED WORKER TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND A STRONGER UNION VOICE IN GOVERNMENT COUNCILS AND INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

IN LINE WITH PROPOSED LABOR REFORMS, GIRM AND PARTY LEADERS WILL ALSO BE WRESTLING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF DISSIDENT YOUTH AND RECREATING THE PPM'S MORIBUND YOUTH WING IN TIME FOR THE TWICE-POSTPONED NATIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE, NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1974. AT THIS CONFERENCE THE WHOLE SCOPE OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE NEW DEPARTURES OF 1973, WILL BE PARADED BEFORE GRASS ROOT MAURITANIAN OPINION-MOLDERS FOR THEIR PRAISE, CRITICISM OR CENSURE. IN THE WAKE OF IT, WE MAY SEE CHANGES IN THE PRESENT CABINET--WHICH WITH THE ADDITION OF BUT A SINGLE NEW FACE HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED OVER THE PAST YEAR--AS WELL AS IN THE TOP PARTY GROUPING, THE NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU. WE EXPECT ONLY RELATIVELY MINOR LEADERSHIP CHANGES.

3. BUSINESS: A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE.
UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM MAURITANIA'S EXIT LAST JUNE FROM THE FRANC ZONE, CREATION OF AN UNCONVERTIBLE NATIONAL CURRENCY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

MRN: 1974NOUAKC000001 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CURRENCIES, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NOUAKC00001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: CORE1
Film Number: n/a
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740166/aaaackpp.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: ADS TEXT UNRETRIEVABLE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NOUAKCHOTT A-86 (12/31/72), 1163, 11, 64, 1227, AND
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <18 APR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITANIA, LOOKING AHEAD TO 1974
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, EAID, MR, PPM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005